

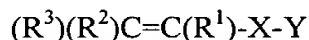
What is claimed:

1. A composition comprising a pre-formed, hydrolytically susceptible non-addition polyanionic polymer comprising polymer strands formed from at least one ethylenically unsaturated monomer, wherein the polymer strands are linked by at least one linking moiety comprising a hydrolytically susceptible bond, wherein at least one of which monomers has:

i) one or more functional groups that can be titrated with base to form negatively charged functional groups, or

ii) one or more precursor groups that are precursors of the functional groups that can be titrated with base; which precursor groups are converted to the functional groups;

wherein at least one of the ethylenically unsaturated monomers is according to the formula:



wherein:

Y is $-C(O)OR^4$; $-O-S(O_2)OR^4$; $-S(O_2)OR^4$; or $-S(O)OR^4$; wherein R^4 is hydrogen or a cleavage permitting group;

X is a direct bond; a straight or branched alkylene group having two to six carbon atoms (preferably C_1 to C_6), one or more of which can be replaced by O, S, or N heteroatoms, provided that there is no heteroatom in a position α or β to Y; phenylene; a five or six membered heteroarylene having up to three heteroatoms independently selected from O, S, and N, provided that neither Y or $R^3R^2C=C(R^1)-$ is bonded to a heteroatom; and

R^1 , R^2 , and R^3 are independently selected from, hydrogen, C_1 - C_6 alkyl, carboxy, halogen, cyano, isocyanato, C_1 - C_6 hydroxyalkyl, alkoxyalkyl having 2 to 12 carbon atoms, C_1 - C_6 haloalkyl, C_1 - C_6 cyanoalkyl, C_3 - C_6 cycloalkyl, C_1 - C_6 carboxyalkyl, aryl, hydroxyaryl, haloaryl, cyanoaryl, C_1 - C_6 alkoxyaryl, carboxyaryl, nitroaryl, or a group -X-Y; wherein C_1 - C_6 alkyl or C_1 - C_6 alkoxy groups are either linear or branched and up to Q-2 carbon atoms of any C_3 - C_6 cycloalkyl group, wherein Q is the total number of ring carbon atoms in the cycloalkyl group, are independently replaced with O, S, or N heteroatoms; with the proviso that neither doubly-bonded carbon atom is directly

